Development Update

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT EVENTS NO. 3 MAY - JUNE 1994

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PrepCom takes wide-angle view of population and development

IN THE GLARE OF INCREASING MEDIA attention, the third and final Preparatory Committee meeting of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) agreed that family planning should be part of a broad approach to meeting overall reproductive health care needs, particularly of women. Meeting in New York 4-22 April, delegates from 170 Governments also reached consensus on the need to empower women and eliminate all forms of gender bias, to integrate population concerns into development policies and programmes and to base population programmes on fulfillment of human needs rather than on demographic targets.

Agreement was reached on roughly 85 per cent of the wording of the draft Programme of Action that will be presented to the Population Conference in Cairo, 5-13 September 1994, but consensus on a number of key issues eluded the PrepCom.

Especially controversial, and a principal subject of media coverage, was a proposal to address unsafe abortion as a major public health concern. The Holy See, an active observer at the proceedings, and several countries opposed wording they said might imply endorsement of legalized abortion, while many delegations supported the approach proposed by the draft document. In the absence of unanimous agreement, references to "reproductive health", "fertility regulation", "family planning" and even "safe motherhood" were placed in square brackets, necessitating further negotiation in Cairo.

More discussion is needed also on proposals to offer reproductive health information, counselling and services to adolescents; on a set of 20-year proposed goals in health, education and availability of family planning information and services; and on estimates of the resources needed to provide comprehensive reproductive health services world-wide.

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Making natural disasters less deadly

MEETING IN YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, FROM 23 to 27 May, the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction approved a plan for working disaster preparedness into development efforts and alerting policy makers and the public to the strategic value of such measures. Preparedness, delegates noted, saves more lives than post-disaster relief, and it is calculated (by the World Meterological Organization) that each dollar spent on preparedness for natural calamities would save one hundred dollars spent afterwards.

The issue is crucial in developing countries, where 90 per cent of the world's natural disasters and 95 per cent of the resulting deaths occur. Delegates to the World Conference repeatedly brought out the dilemma that faces many countries: the increasing human and material costs of natural disasters (annual economic losses worldwide now total $60 billion) hinder, and in extreme cases even reverse, national development efforts, but effective investment in preparedness is impeded by financial constraints.

The Conference-approved Yokohama Strategy calls for a global "culture of prevention", encouraging capacity-building in vulnerable countries and communities, public education and training, improved risk assessment and early-warning systems, and sharing of knowledge and technology by the private and public sectors.

Based on this Strategy, the "Plan of Action for a Safer World" outlines requirements for development of national disaster prevention plans. These

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Small islands get programme, remain at sea on finances

A global conference on small islands states charted a new course of action for scores of economically and environmentally vulnerable nations, but the lack of financial commitment from developed countries disappointed delegates and island leaders.

The United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which took place in Bridgetown, Barbados, from 25 April to 6 May, was an outgrowth of the 1992 UN Earth Summit. Many delegates questioned, however, whether the "spirit of Rio" was at work.

In particular, leaders of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) complained that donor countries were failing to uphold their end of the global partnership to protect the environment while promoting economic development.

But island leaders also noted that the Barbados conference strengthened ties among the 41 AOSIS member states and focused world attention on their often-overlooked problems.

These include the danger of rising sea levels as a possible consequence of global warming, vulnerability to storms and droughts, losses of fragile reefs and rain forests, coastal pollution, inadequate waste disposal, shortages of freshwater, high transport and communications costs, difficulties in attracting investments and import dependency.

Islands on world agenda

Ambassador Penelope Wensley of Australia, who chaired negotiations on the Programme of Action, cautioned against an "obsession with finance" in judging the Conference, especially in light of the international economic environment. At a 2 May press conference, she explained that the Programme of Action negotiated at the Conference places the sustainable development of small islands on the international agenda, and that even to hold a global conference on these issues is a significant achievement.

Negotiations on finance

The final language on finance — agreed to at 3:30 a.m. on 4 May in a small contact group — acknowledges that "implementation of the programme of action will require the provision of effective means, including adequate, predictable, new and additional financial resources" by the international community. However, there was little indication from donor countries that such resources will be forthcoming. Their refrain, already well rehearsed in other negotiations for development assistance, was "better and more efficient use of existing resources".

Donor countries further pointed out that the per capita gross national product (GNP) of most small island States is at the high end of the scale for developing countries. Island leaders countered that per capita GNP indices do not reflect their countries' vulnerabilities and high cost of living.

Island negotiators sought but failed to obtain language specifying liability when accidents occur to ships carrying toxic and hazardous waste through island waters.

Language on family planning proved to be another contentious area, reflecting unresolved issues in the preparations for the Cairo Conference (see page 1). The Holy See placed a reservation on those sections when the Programme was adopted by consensus.

Specific Programme of Action recommendations include feasibility studies by the UN Development Programme on a small island developing States information network (SIDS/NET) and on a technical assistance programme (SIDS/TAP); the establishment of national disaster emergency funds for areas where insurance is not available; and creation of an entity within the UN Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development to act as focal point on Conference follow-up. The UN Commission on Sustainable Development was asked to review implementation of the Programme of Action in 1996 and again in 1999.

Governments also adopted the "Barbados Declaration", affirming that "the international community has a responsibility to facilitate the efforts of small island developing States to minimize the stress on their fragile ecosystems, including through cooperative action and partnership". The Declaration was negotiated under the leadership of Ambassador Besley Maycock, Permanent Representative of Barbados to the UN.

Eminent persons

A "high-level" segment of the Conference on 5-6 May involved 14 Heads of State and Government and two dozen special representatives and ministers. Much of the scarce media attention devoted to the Conference focused on the intervention of Dr. Fidel Castro, President of Cuba, who noted that developing island States contribute only minimally to global environmental problems, but are disproportionately threatened.

Dame Nita Barrow, Governor-General of Barbados, presented a report prepared by the Group of Eminent Persons on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The report charged that momentum generated by the Earth Summit is faltering, and that the value of island ecosystems remains unappreciated. On the positive side, it presented a list of 18 recommendations for action on behalf of small island States deemed to be neither expensive nor difficult to carry out. ■

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Secretary-General sets 'An Agenda for Development'

World Hearings on Development were held at United Nations Headquarters 6-10 June against the backdrop of the release of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's *An Agenda for Development* (A/48/935), a guide to renewed international action to improve the human condition.

The Hearings, organized by General Assembly President S. R. Insanally, brought an international array of non-governmental authorities to New York to discuss ideas for a global development strategy.

An Agenda for Development is issued mid-way through a cycle of UN-sponsored global conferences on social and economic development. It intends to provide the international community with a new, wider vision of development and of a more central role for the UN in promoting it. A counterpart to his 1992 *An Agenda for Peace*, the report challenges the notion that UN involvement in peacekeeping operations detracts from its commitment to social and economic issues and asserts that security and development are interdependent.

The Secretary-General will present his final conclusions and recommendations concerning his report to the General Assembly session opening in September, taking into account ideas from the 6-10 June World Hearings and a high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council session starting 27 June in New York.

"The concept of development — and decades of effort to reduce poverty, illiteracy, disease and mortality rates — are great achievements of this century", the report says. "But development as a common cause is in danger of fading from the forefront of our agenda". Factors cited as contributing to the decline of development as an international priority include "ethnocentrism, isolationism, cultural animosity, and economic and social debilitation". Industrialized countries are criticized for a reluctance to provide financial assistance that does not also directly benefit the donor. Yet, with the demise of the cold war and as a result of "immense and agonizing effort" towards peace and development, the report concludes that "the possibilities for common understanding and cooperative, coordinated action are available as never before".

Respective sections of the 68-page report develop the themes of peace as the foundation of development, economic growth as the engine of social progress, protection of the environment as the basis for sustainable development, justice as the pillar of society and democracy as the basis for good governance. ■

'Rio' follow-up needs higher profile

The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), established to track follow-up to the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, ended its second annual session amid widespread agreement that it needs much greater political influence if it is to be a global catalyst for environmental progress.

"For the Commission to be effective, it needs a clear political profile." said CSD Chairman Dr. Klaus Töpfer, who is the German Minister for the Environment. "We must involve [national] Ministers of the Treasury and of Development as well as Ministers for the Environment in our work", he added.

Meeting 16-27 May in New York, the Commission criticized the slow progress towards Earth Summit goals in the sectors of health, human settlements, fresh water, toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes, and solid wastes and sewage. On a positive note, national reports submitted to the CSD indicate that 55 countries have established national organizations to promote sustainable development.

With faster progress hindered by a lack of finance, and also noting a failure to meet the Earth Summit commitment of increased financial flows to developing countries, the CSD directed an intersessional working group to explore innovative methods of raising funds. Suggestions included taxes on airplane tickets and pollution emissions and incentives for investment in environmentally protective technologies, especially in developing countries.

Developing countries called for an increase in official development assistance (ODA), which currently totals about $50 billion per year. Dr. Töpfer suggested that liberalized trade policies could increase financial flows to developing countries and contribute to sustainable development, provided effective environmental protection measures are put in place.

The need to change production and consumption patterns, especially in developed countries, and issues relating to trade and environment were taken up by Ministers attending a high-level segment, 25-27 May. The 40-plus Ministers and high-level officials attending the segment stressed that the Commission should use its unique position to encourage the Bretton Woods institutions and the provisional World Trade Organization to promote environmentally sustainable economic growth through a favourable international economic environment.

The Commission's next session will take place in New York during the second quarter of 1995. ■

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Ambassador Butler stresses UN's development role

Ambassador Richard Butler (Australia), President of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and Chairman of the UN Fiftieth Anniversary Commemoration, was interviewed on 26 April by Development Update.

DU *What is the significance of the round of global conferences the UN has entered into in the first half of the 1990s?*

RB With the cold war behind us, we have seen a euphoria about the role of the Security Council, about the UN and the "blue helmets", somehow keeping the peace around the world. We have seen a massive leap in the number of peacekeeping operations. But there has not been a corresponding upsurge in pursuit of those parts of the Charter which pledge "better standards of life in larger freedom". If we are to create a modern United Nations, fit for today's and tomorrow's tasks, we have to revive the economic and social side of the house. It will be a tragedy if the United Nations were to be identified only with its "blue helmets".

DU *Can you assess the impact that has been made and hopefully will be made by this group of conferences?*

RB I hope these conferences taken together and perhaps given further expression in a Fiftieth Anniversary Declaration will express to the world a new set of priorities and values having to do with people and with non-military threats to the security of people; and that this will include setting an agenda that has women, population, jobs and poverty at the centre.

DU *How would you answer those who question the value of global conferences?*

RB The answer is that this world is in transit from an old system to a new, and in some areas you could say it is in breakdown — many countries have 30 to 40 per cent unemployment, for instance. When you have breakdown, you need answers. Those answers, like a set of signposts, can only be given by the UN. As is the case with signposts, it is up to Governments and communities and corporations to follow them. No one is going to force them. But when they ask themselves, "What is happening to us? Why are we in breakdown?" We knew where we were going in the cold war, but where are we going now? Where are we going to land?" — the UN can tell them.

DU *How does ECOSOC fit in?*

RB ECOSOC must implement structural reforms mandated last year by the General Assembly and assert for itself the policy coordination role the reform resolution envisaged. In other words, a piece of legislation which is in large part a declaration must be turned into practical reality. No one is going to let ECOSOC coordinate the activities of the UN Development Programme, for instance, if what ECOSOC calls coordination is issuing of bits of paper. Either ECOSOC does its work in a serious way and implements the decisions taken on its reform, or it will fail in its purpose. What I mean by "a serious way" is to set policy goals and directions and assist the programmes and take time to follow up, so that a concrete result is obtained.

DU *You spent a good deal of time recently at the Population PrepCom. What is your assessment of that meeting and progress towards Cairo?*

RB The Conference is on course. It has some problems, but I'm satisfied that it's launched and it's well on course. A small number of delegations were very much opposed to what the overwhelming majority wanted in certain fields, like population control. The Conference will have to come to terms with that minority position. I won't predict how that will take place, but I will predict this: It will take place, and the world's needs for effective population policy will not be sidelined by narrowly defined views held by a small number of countries.

This is not meant to show disrespect to them. They're free to express their point of view. But the tail must not be allowed to wag the dog.

DU *You've mentioned the Fiftieth Anniverary. How can it best be used to further the UN's work?*

RB The Fiftieth Anniversary is an opportunity for communication that shouldn't be lost. I have learned in my travels that a lot of the criticism you hear of the UN is based on false premises. People will say "The UN's terrible because it doesn't do 'X'," when 'X' is something that's not in the Charter to begin with. The key false premise is "world government". People say "Why doesn't the UN make this country do this?", and the answer is, "Because it is not a world government; it is a collectivity of nation states". The UN sometimes is criticized as if it were the New York City police department. In fact, it is not the law enforcement arm of a single, popularly elected government.

This is where Department of Public Information has its biggest job, I think.

In addition to that, there will be the Declaration that I mentioned. I think it can be an important means of communication to people around the world — a Declaration that says, "As we stand at the moment when the UN has lived for 50 years, we are also standing at the edge of the beginning of a new century. When we look into the future, what do we see? What will the problems be? What can this place do to help solve those problems? What are our aspirations? What values do we want to underline as we turn this corner and head into the twenty-first century?" ■

ITU online for global telecommunications

The first world conference of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), a United Nations specialized agency, agreed to a plan for accelerating developing countries' access to telecommunications systems and new technology.

Between 1983 and 1992, telephone lines per person in the industrialized world rose by 10 per cent, but in the rest of the world the increase was only 1.4 per cent. Moreover, the least developed countries are only beginning to gain access to new technologies such as cellular phones, digital transmission and data networks, essential links in the modern world.

The First World Telecommunication Development Conference, held 21-29 March in Buenos Aires, Argentina, set goals and objectives for balanced telecommunication development by the end of the century and beyond. Its Action Plan translates these goals into a four-year programme, identifying priorities for the ITU and for development assistance agencies. These include encouraging investment, recommendations on telecommunications strategies and policies, development of technical solutions to installing services in remote areas and human resources development.

The cost of ITU's role in the Action Plan is $10.7 million. Further financing and participation in the Action Plan is being sought from development agencies, financial institutions and telecommunications companies.

Dr. Carlos Menem, President of Argentina, inaugurated the Conference. Delivering the keynote address, United States Vice-President Al Gore called on legislators, regulators and businesses to build a global information infrastructure and challenged the Conference to ensure access of developing countries to its benefits

Conference seminars emphasized the need for liberalization or privatization of government-run systems and private-sector participation in their expansion. But the telecommunications minister from Kenya argued in favor of controls on the sale of valuable national assets, while the chief of Brazil's state telecommunications company said his Government will not relinquish control of its world-class system. ■

PrepCom settles on urbanization theme for Habitat II

Urbanization will be the focus of Habitat II, according to recommendations of the Preparatory Committee that met in Geneva from 11 to 22 April.

The Geneva meeting was the initial PrepCom for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, widely known as Habitat II. The Conference will take place in Istanbul, Turkey, 26 April to 9 May 1996, 20 years after the original Habitat conference in Vancouver, Canada.

"Urban settlements will become the primary place for the struggle for development" in the 21st century, UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in the inaugural address. Describing Habitat II as "the City Summit", he called for urgent action to improve governance and finance, alleviate the plight of the poor and ensure basic hygiene and housing.

The Global Plan of Action, the PrepCom decided, should be structured according to Conference themes of "Sustainable Human Settlements in an Urbanizing World" and "Adequate Shelter for All".

A proposal requiring national reports to use statistical categories that are "indicators" of government efforts to improve housing stirred PrepCom debate. Most donor countries supported using these indicators, which were designed by the UN Centre for Human Settlements and the World Bank, as a means to sharpen government policies and assess the efficacy of assistance. Several developing countries expressed doubts as to their relevance and objected to the cost and difficulty of obtaining the necessary statistics. They also were concerned with conditionality — that assistance might be withheld from countries failing to reach targets pegged to the indicators.

Conference Secretary-General Dr. Wally N'Dow suggested that the charting of progress requires information, but the process must not be rigid or overly complicated. Following this lead, the PrepCom agreed to limited use of simplified indicators in national reports to Habitat II.

Several developing countries, many of them African, expressed concern that emphasis on cities will exclude consideration of pressing rural needs. Further discussion cited the interdependence of rural and urban development, leading to the use of the term "urbanization" to refer to the overall dynamic of countryside-to-city migration.

The second PrepCom for Habitat II will take place 26 April - 9 May 1995 in Nairobi, Kenya.

For more information contact UN Centre for Human Settlements Room DC2-0943, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA, Tel 212-963-4200, Fax 212-963-8721

Making natural disasters less deadly

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include educating the public on how to react to sudden disasters, upgrading buildings and infrastructure to better withstand earthquakes and storms, moving homes or keeping them away from disaster-prone locations and land protection to decrease the risk of landslides, floods and droughts. Community involvement, including implementation of traditional coping mechanisms, is deemed essential.

The Plan recommends regional networking of centres that track storms and insect infestations, assess their potential for damage and send out early warnings.

At the international level, it urges increased funding of disaster-reduction activities and their integration into development assistance programmes. No funding targets were set.

A "Yokohama Message" summarizing the Conference outcome is intended to ensure that the Plan of Action and Strategy will receive the attention of world leaders

Mid-term 'Decade' review

The World Conference also conducted a UN General Assembly-mandated mid-term review of the International Decade of Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR), 1990 - 2000. Its conclusion, stated in the Conference report, is that awareness of disaster reduction remains limited to specialized circles and has not been successfully communicated to policy makers or the general public. Moreover, existing tools for responding to disaster are not sufficiently utilized.

But preparedness measures instituted since the beginning of the decade have reduced losses, the report found. Speaking at a pre-Conference press briefing, Dr. Olavi Elo, Secretary-General of the World Conference and IDNDR Executive Director, cited two cyclones of roughly similar strength that struck India, one in the early 1980s and the second a decade later. The first cyclone killed tens of thousands, he said, but the death toll of the second was in the hundreds, largely due to improved preparedness. The IDNDR secretariat, located in the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs, heads an inter-agency coordinating group that includes UN bodies such as the World Health Organization and World Meterological Organization and works with national disaster coordinating committees in 145 countries.

Connections with other conferences

The Yokohama Conference's emphasis on sustainable development, speakers pointed out, is shared by the recently concluded Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States as well as ongoing preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held in September (see pages 1 and 2). Further connections were drawn by delegates from Dominica, Jamaica, and Saint Lucia, who stressed the particular vulnerability of small islands to disaster, and the value of national preparedness and regional cooperation.

Speakers also noted that the Yokohama Conference allowed ample opportunity for bringing scientific and technical advice to bear on intergovernmental interchanges. Seven technical committees met in parallel with the intergovernmental negotiations and provided material for the final Conference report on warning systems, technological and natural hazards, hazard-resistant structures, economic aspects of disaster reduction, drought management, and developing self-sufficiency in vulnerable communities.

The report will be reviewed at the 27 June-29 July UN Economic and Social Council session, when the Council undertakes the mid-term global review of the Decade. It will then be referred to the General Assembly at its upcoming forty-ninth session. ■

For more information contact:
The IDNDR Secretariat
Department of Humanitarian Affairs,
United Nations Office at Geneva
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10 Switzerland
Fax 41-22-733-8695

1995 Crime Congress to meet in Tunis

The Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders will take place in Tunis, Tunisia, from 24 April to 5 May, 1995. The decision was made by the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its 25 April-6 May meeting in Vienna, Austria.

The quinquennial Crime Congresses provide a global forum for developing criminal justice policies and taking international action.

Discussion at the Congress will focus on combating transnational crime, defining crimes against the environment, and measures to counter crime among young people and violence inflicted on women. The work of the Ninth Congress will be assisted by two preceding meetings — the International Conference on Laundering and Controlling Proceeds of Crime, held 17-21 June 1994 in Courmayeur, Italy; and the 24-26 October 1994 World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, in Naples, Italy.

For more information contact
UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch
United Nations Office at Vienna
A-1400 Vienna, Austria

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Social Summit draft documents available

A working text for the outcome of next year's World Summit for Social Development calls for the establishment of national strategies and precise timetables for the elimination of extreme poverty, the elimination of all forms of discrimination and programmes to ensure that every man and woman who desires to can hold a paying job.

Outlines of the two key Social Summit documents — a draft Declaration and draft Programme of Action — were agreed to at the first Preparatory Committee meeting, 31 January-11 February. The secretariat prepared working drafts and circulated them prior to the second PrepCom, which will be held 22 August-2 September in New York. The final Declaration and Programme of Action are to be negotiated and adopted by world leaders 6-12 March 1995 at the Social Summit in Copenhagen, Denmark.

To request copies of the draft documents, contact the Social Summit secretariat in New York by fax at 212-963-3062.

Development Report recommends 'action agenda'

Human Development Report 1994, commissioned by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and released in May, includes a seven-point "action agenda" proposed for the World Summit for Social Development.

Prepared by an independent team of scholars headed by Mahbub ul Haq, former Finance and Planning Minister of Pakistan, now Special Adviser to UNDP Administrator James Gustave Speth, the report urges the Summit to approve a "world social charter" that would "give clear and precise expression" to the idea that human security must be based on development, not arms.

In this connection, the action agenda urges that the Summit endorse a worldwide, country-by-country cut in military spending of 3 per cent, with as much as 20 per cent of the savings earmarked for fighting poverty, pollution, drug-trafficking and other threats to global human security.

Also recommended is a "human development compact" under which all nations — donors and developing nations alike — would pledge to devote 20 per cent of their budgets for "human priority concerns"; creation of a UN-based "Economic Security Council" to manage new dimensions of global human security; and examination of the feasibility of a global taxation system — especially on pollution and speculative movements of capital — that could be used to set up "a new global fund for human security".

Human Development Report 1994 calculates that global military expenditures declined at an annual rate of 3.6 per cent between 1987 and 1994 — a total reduction of $935 billion. But, the report says, "it is difficult to track where these funds went" and there has been "no clear link between reduced military spending and enhanced expenditure on human development". ■

PrepCom takes wide-angle view of population and development

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At a 25 April news conference, ICPD Secretary-General Dr. Nafis Sadik, who is also Executive Director of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), countered suggestions that the draft Programme's definitions of reproductive health and fertility regulation countenance "abortion on demand". "Neither the United Nations nor the Programme of Action proposes legalizing abortion", she said. "Rather, the Programme of Action brings to the world's attention the health consequences of unsafe abortion", which causes an estimated 250,000 maternal deaths each year. Dr. Sadik said she was confident that compromise language will be developed on abortion prior to ICPD, and stated that ultimately the issue must be addressed within national laws and legislative processes.

Dr. Sadik also expressed confidence that the Cairo Conference will adopt the draft Programme of Action with few modifications, and the final document "will serve as a liberating force for women throughout the world and as one of the cornerstones of social and economic planning for the twenty-first century".

Algeria, speaking for the Group of 77 and China, called for stronger emphasis on poverty alleviation — a theme repeated by a number of other developing countries. Greece, speaking for the European Union, called for universal access to good quality reproductive health services, including family planning, and said that population policies should be neither coercive nor discriminatory.

An estimated 1,200 representatives from over 500 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) followed the negotiations closely. Experts from their ranks held panel discussions and workshops, and many NGOs were represented within national delegations. A list of 937 NGOs was approved for accreditation to the ICPD.

The active role of NGOs in the PrepCom underscores the draft Programme's call for a Government-NGO partnership in population and development efforts. ■

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CALENDAR MAY 1994 - APRIL 1995

1994

16 - 27 MAY
Commission on Sustainable Development, second session (New York, USA)

23 - 27 MAY
World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction (Yokohama, Japan)

6 - 10 JUNE
Global Hearings on Development (New York, USA)

6 - 17 JUNE
Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the International Convention on Desertification (Paris, France)

7 - 14 JUNE
Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Conference for the Fourth World Conference on Women (Jakarta, Indonesia)

27 JUNE - 29 JULY
49th Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (New York, USA)

27 JUNE - 29 JUNE
ECOSOC High-Level Segment on Agenda for Development , (New York, USA)

22 AUGUST - 2 SEPTEMBER
Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development (New York, USA)

5 - 13 SEPTEMBER
International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, Egypt)

19 - 23 SEPTEMBER
Regional NGO Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean, Fourth World Conference on Women (Mar del Plata, Argentina)

20 - 22 SEPTEMBER
UN Department of Public Information 47th Annual Conference for Non-Governmental Organizations (New York, USA)

26 - 30 SEPTEMBER
Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Conference for the Fourth World Conference on Women (Mar del Plata, Argentina)

13 - 15 OCTOBER
Regional NGO Forum for Europe, Fourth World Conference on Women (Vienna, Austria)

17 - 21 OCTOBER
European Regional Preparatory Conference for the Fourth World Conference on Women (Vienna, Austria)

6 - 10 NOVEMBER
Western Asian Regional Preparatory Conference for the Fourth World Conference on Women (Amman, Jordan)

14 - 17 NOVEMBER
Regional NGO Forum for Africa, Fourth World Conference on Women (Dakar, Senegal)

16 - 23 NOVEMBER
African Regional Preparatory Conference for the Fourth World Conference on Women (Dakar, Senegal)

1995

16 - 27 JANUARY
Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development (New York, USA)

6 - 12 MARCH
World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, Denmark)

13 - 24 MARCH
Commission on the Status of Women, 39th session (New York, USA)

26 APRIL - 9 MAY
Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements — Habitat II (Nairobi, Kenya)

24 APRIL - 5 MAY
Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Tunis, Tunisia)

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